



**Testimony by Cara Wachsman, General Counsel
Connecticut Employees Union Independent, SEIU Local 511
Senate Resolution 13/House Resolution 16**

Good morning Distinguished Co-Chairs and Members of the
Appropriations Committee.

My name is Cara Wachsman. I am the General Counsel and Staff
Director for Connecticut Employees Union Independent, SEIU Local 511.
Additionally, I served as the Chief Negotiator for the NP-2 Contract Award
before you today and I am here to urge your support of that award.

RON McLELLAN
President

MICHAEL GRIFFIN
Vice President

LESLIE MADDOCKS
Secretary-Treasurer

The negotiation process for this contract began in October 2007
and the parties reached impasse in early 2008. The impasse between the
parties was largely due to the State's refusal to offer any economic
proposals to this unit, while other units that were engaged in negotiations
at the same time were provided with economic proposals from the State.
The refusal by the State to offer any economic proposals provided our
negotiation team virtually no opportunity to engage in true negotiations
with the State.



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On March 28, 2008, our bargaining unit filed for interest arbitration
which resulted in the appointment of Arbitrator Marc D. Greenbaum.
Arbitration hearings were subsequently held September 2008 through
November 2008, at which time the economic crisis had come to a head.
At the commencement of hearings, the parties had 60 outstanding issues.
Recognizing the changing circumstances, the parties agreed to narrow the
issues down to 31, of which 27 were economic.



The award before you today represents the careful analysis of an arbitrator, including analysis of the State's ability to pay which is one of the statutory factors he is charged with evaluating. And as President McLellan has already pointed out, this award is not without sacrifice on the part of the hardworking NP-2 members. This is the same sacrifice that this bargaining unit was forced to accept in 2005 when Arbitrator Foy awarded the State's Last Best Offer of a zero percent general wage increase for one fiscal year.

RON McLELLAN
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The NP-2 bargaining unit members are not only being asked to make sacrifices via this arbitration award. The Arbitrator, in issuing his award, could not take into consideration one additional factor, and that is concession bargaining that this unit, as well as all of the SEBAC bargaining units have been engaged in since the beginning of 2009. We can continue to be part of the solution, while still preserving our arbitrated award before you today.

It is for these reasons that I urge you to support this award.



Thank you.

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